

## CLAIMS

1. An apparatus (1) to assist a patient respiration by delivering air to a patient through a mask (20), comprising :  
5 - a blower (4) to provide the patient with air under a treatment pressure,  
- a control unit (2) to adjust the pressure delivered by said blower at the level of said mask,  
- a ramp module (10) connected to the control unit in order to  
10 provide the control unit with the value of pressure  $P_M$  to settle at said mask, so that when said apparatus starts functioning, the pressure progressively rises until the pressure of treatment  $P_T$ ;  
characterized in that it comprises a comparator connected to  
15 the ramp module, at least one means for detecting the patient's breathing parameters and sending them to said comparator, in order in response to said breathing parameters, that the comparator is able to determine that an event ( $E_1$ ,  $E_2$  or  $E_3$ ) occurs in patient's breathing and to send the  
20 corresponding data to the ramp module which provides the control unit with a value of pressure  $P_M$  that will speed up with respect of time, so that the rise of pressure at patient's mask is accelerated.

25 2. The apparatus (1) according to claim 1, wherein said ramp module provides the value of pressure  $P_M$  being a linear function of time wherein the increase coefficient  $K_{RP}$  is constant, said ramp module increasing that coefficient of a constant value  $K_E$  when the control unit (2) send a data  
30 corresponding to said event ( $E_1$ ,  $E_2$  or  $E_3$ ).

3. The apparatus according claim 1 or 2, wherein the value of pressure  $P_M$  has always maximum and/or minimum limits so that the increase of pressure is also limited in minimum  
35 and/or maximum.

4. The apparatus according claim 2 and 3, wherein said ramp module (10) comprises a memory (12) where a minimum coefficient  $K_{SRP}$  is stored, said ramp module always maintaining the coefficient  $K_{RP}$  equal or superior to said minimum coefficient  $K_{SRP}$ , so that the ramp module provides the control unit (2) with a value of pressure  $P_M$  always superior to a minimum limit.

5. The apparatus (1) according to claim 2 and 3, wherein said ramp module (10) comprises a memory (12) where a maximum coefficient  $K_{MRP}$  is stored, said ramp module always maintaining the coefficient  $K_{RP}$  equal or inferior to said maximum coefficient  $K_{MRP}$ , so that the ramp module provides the control unit (2) with a value of pressure  $P_M$  always inferior to a maximum limit.

6. The apparatus according to any of the previous claims, wherein said means (6) for detecting the patient's breathing parameters enable the control unit (2) to compute the airflow at patient's mask (20), said comparator determining that an event ( $E_1$ ,  $E_2$  or  $E_3$ ) is occurring with the airflow parameters or shape.

7. The apparatus according to any one of the previous claims, wherein the ramp module (10) increases the value of pressure  $P_M$  when an anomaly, such as snoring or apnea, in patient's breathing is detected.

8. The apparatus according to any one of the previous claims, wherein the ramp module (10) increases the value of pressure  $P_M$  when the patient's breathing parameters correspond to a drop between awake breathing and asleep breathing or when they correspond to a stable frequency of breathing.